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PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS IN THE USSR

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Official USSR reports indicate that the production of natural gas in that country in recent years is becoming increasingly important for the total fuel supply. Although no precise production figures have been announced, and the statistical data which have been published must be taken with a certain degree of skepticism, one may still expect that production in 1955 under the revised Five-Year Plan will amount to approximately 6.3 billion cubic meters.

The most important natural gas deposit in the Soviet Union is located northeast of Saratov. From the Saratov field a pipeline approximately 850 kilometers long extends to Moscow. The deposit next in importance is located in the territory of Eastern Galicia which now belongs to the Ukraine. From this area L'vov and Kiev are supplied with natural gas through pipelines. A natural gas field located between the Volga and the Ural serves to supply Kuybyshev and Ufa, which are the most important industrial cities [in that area]. The natural gas deposit in the extreme north of the USSR in the vicinity of Ukhta, which has been opened to exploitation, is to be connected by means of a pipeline with the city of Molotov. Leningrad is being supplied with gas from Estonia by means of a pipeline which starts at the Kotla-Yarve plant for the conversion of bituminous shale and conveys gas from that plant.

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